

CLAIMS

1. Chain linked capsules.
2. Chain linked capsules wherein the capsules have a length of no more than
5 about 15mm and a width of no more than about 8mm.
3. A capsule and a chain link for the capsule.
4. The capsule and chain link of claim 3, wherein the capsule has a length of
no more than about 15mm and a width of no more than about 8mm.
5. The capsule and chain link of claim 3 or claim 4, wherein the chain link
10 extends from a base of the capsule.
6. The capsule and chain link of any one of claims 3 to 5, wherein the capsule
is generally cylindrical.
7. The capsule and chain link of claim 6, wherein the chain link extends
generally radially outward from the capsule.
- 15 8. The capsule and chain link of any one of claims 3 to 7, wherein the capsule
comprises a sleeve which is provided with an internal chamber for holding a
powder product within the capsule.
9. The capsule and chain link of claim 8, wherein the sleeve comprises a first
opening at a first end thereof and a second opening at an opposite end thereof.
- 20 10. The capsule and chain link of any one of claims 3 to 9, wherein the capsule
comprises two chambers separated by a flange portion, the first of the chambers
being for containing a powder product and the second of the chambers being for
connecting a chain link thereto.
11. The capsule and chain link of any one of claims 3 to 10, wherein the
25 capsule comprises a sleeve and a piston.

12. The capsule and chain link of claim 10 and claim 11, wherein the piston is adapted to extend within the sleeve from a first end thereof, through the first chamber and the flange portion, and into the second chamber.
13. The capsule and chain link of claim 11 or claim 12, wherein the sleeve and
5 the piston are adapted to be displaced between a discharging position or state in which both a chamber of the capsule adapted to contain a powder product is open to the outside environment and a vent provided in the base of the chamber is open for allowing powder product from within the chamber to be sucked out of the chamber through a first opening to the outside environment and a sealing state in
10 which both the chamber is sealed from the outside environment and the vent is closed.
14. The capsule and chain link of claim 13, wherein the base is a flange portion separating two chambers and the vent is provided through the flange portion.
15. The capsule and chain link of claim 14, wherein, in the sealing state, the
15 piston closes the vent to isolate the two chambers from each other.
16. The capsule and chain link of any one of claims 13 to 15, wherein the capsule can be placed into a third state in which the chamber is open to the outside environment and there is a partial seal at the vent, the partial seal being gas pervious but powder product impervious.
- 20 17. The capsule and chain link of claim 16, wherein the piston has a circumferential array of longitudinal channels formed in a portion of the outer surface of the piston.
18. The capsule and chain link of any one of claims 3 to 17, wherein the capsule comprises an opening at an end thereof of a size corresponding with a
25 protrusion on the end of the chain link.
19. The capsule and chain link of claim 18, wherein the protrusion is a tubular portion having a hole therethrough.

20. The capsule and chain link of any one of claims 3 to 19, wherein the chain link is pivotally connected to the capsule at one end of the chain link.
21. The capsule and chain link of any one of claims 3 to 19, wherein the chain link is integral with the capsule.
- 5 22. The capsule and chain link of any one of claims 3 to 19, wherein the chain link is pivotally connectable to a capsule at both ends of the chain link.
23. The capsule and chain link of claim 22, wherein the chain link comprises two tubular portions provided at ends of a flange.
24. The capsule and chain link of claim 23, wherein the first tubular portion is of
10 a first diameter and the second tubular portion is of a second diameter.
25. The capsule and chain link of claim 24, wherein both tubular portions are hollow, the second tubular portion having an internal diameter corresponding generally to the outside diameter of the first tubular portion.
26. The capsule and chain link of claim 25, wherein the second tubular portion
15 has an outside diameter corresponding generally with the diameter of an opening in an end of the capsule.
27. A plurality of capsules and chain links of any one of claims 3 to 26, wherein the chain links are pivotally connected to the capsules to form chain linked capsules according to claim 1 or claim 2.
- 20 28. The plurality of capsules and chain links of claim 27 provided within a channel.
29. An inhalation device containing chain-linked capsules which contain an inhalable product.
30. Chain linked capsules substantially as hereinbefore described with
25 reference to Figures 3 and 4 or Figures 3 and 5 of the accompanying drawings.